

Application No: 10/528,540
Amendment dated June 26, 2006
Reply to Office Action Dated March 7, 2006

Attorney Docket No: 3926.143

REMARKS

Claims 14-23 are pending in the application. Claims 14-23 have been amended. Claims 1-13 have been previously cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

In response to the Examiner's section 112, second paragraph rejection in item 2 on page 2 of the Office action, the claims language has been modified in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application and to overcome the Examiner's rejection. In view of the modification, the Examiner is, therefore, requested to withdraw the section 112 rejection.

Claims Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fuimefreddo in view of Cauchetier as best understood by the examiner.

Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants would like to first briefly review the present invention.

Plasma wire burners with a variant large number of guiding means for the spray wire are known. The present invention is based on the object of improving the wire feed in the plasma wire burner in such a way that the wire is guided precisely to the short-circuiting point on the plasma wire burner.

The object is achieved by providing a plasma wire burner for plasma spray, comprising:

at least two burner tubes (3) for supplying electrodes in the form of wires (5) from a supply tube (1),

a feed device (7) for passing an electrode through a burner tube (3) in a direction toward a surface of an object to be coated, the feed device has a plurality of guiding

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and/or sliding elements (8) which are mounted such that they can rotate for deforming the wire in an elastic or plastic range,

wherein the feed device (7) is integrated in the burner tube (3) or is held in it, and wherein the guiding and/or sliding elements (8) are in the form of rollers or ball bearing mounted rollers,

wherein the burner or [[a]] the supply tube (1) is formed from three segments (18.1 to 18.3) which can be joined together, (see Fig. 8)

wherein the burner or the supply tube (1) has an approximately circular cross section when viewed from the front, and (see Fig. 8)

wherein the central segment (18.2) of the burner or of the supply tube (1) is approximately wedge-shaped when viewed from the front. (see Fig. 8)

The Examiner states that in Fuimefreddo the burner is formed in three sections 16/16', 26, and 28. However, Applicants believe that the three sections the Examiner refers to have nothing to do with the three segments recited in claim 14 of the instant application.

As can be seen in Fig. 8 of the instant application, the burner or the supply tube (1) is formed from three segments (18.1 to 18.3) which are joined together at two intersection points (20). The burner or the supply tube (1) has an approximately circular cross section when viewed from the front, and the central segment (18.2) of the burner or of the supply tube (1) is approximately wedge-shaped when viewed from the front.

The language of claim 14 has been modified to make it clear that the burner (1), not the burner tube (3), is formed from three segments (18.1 to 18.3), has circular cross section, and has a wedge-shaped central segment (18.2). See paragraphs [00038] and [00039] of the specification.

The Examiner states that Cauchetier discloses the burner tube on the axis 12 that has a wedge-shape when viewed from front as shown in Figs. 7-10. Applicants do not quick understand the Examiner's statement because Figs. 7-10 are sectional views without showing the

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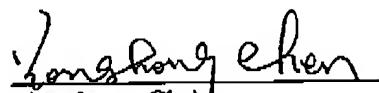
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front. It is unclear how the Examiner would know that the burner tube on the axis 12 would be wedge-shaped viewed from the front.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 14. Claim 14 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 14, they are believed to be patentable as well.

Favorable consideration and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. Should further issues remain prior to allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: June 26, 2006